

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 27, 2007, claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2 and 8-14 have been withdrawn and claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims as currently amended are patentable over the cited prior art.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,581,363 (“Takahashi”) in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,715,104 (“Takada”).

Claim 1 recites a magnetic recorder/reproducer that includes input signal converting means for modulating an input signal at a timing which corresponds to a predetermined number of tracks for each signal section to thereby convert said input signal into a recording signal and recording means for rotating a head cylinder at a rotational speed lower than such a rotational speed of said head cylinder that corresponds to said timing in said modulation, wherein said recording means sets a rotational speed of said head cylinder so that each signal section may be subdivided into such a number of deletion tracks that is obtained by dividing said predetermined number of tracks for each signal section by an integer smaller than said number of tracks.

To provide context for the subject matter of claim 1, the application, in one implementation, describes that claim 1 aims to reduce the rotational speed of a head cylinder. Doing so, as described in the application, reduces the required precision of the rotation mechanism for rotating the head cylinder, which in turn reduces the cost. Application at page 24, lines 16-28.

The Office Action asserts that Takahashi describes a magnetic recorder/reproducer including, among other features, recording means that sets a rotational speed of said head cylinder so that each signal section may be subdivided into such a number of deletion tracks that is obtained by dividing said predetermined number of tracks for each signal section by an integer smaller than said number of tracks, as recited in claim 1. *See e.g.*, Office Action at page 4, lines 1-6. Applicants disagree.

Takahashi also discloses an apparatus that aims to reduce the rotational speed of the head cylinder. To this end, Takahashi shows an apparatus that includes four magnetic heads instead of a conventional apparatus with the two magnetic heads and describes that this reduces the rotational speed of the head cylinder. *See e.g.*, Takahashi at Abstract, col. 4, lines 16-60, and col. 7, lines 13-19. In particular, in Table 1, Takahashi compares the standard VTR and the VTR according to Takahashi's invention and shows that the rotational speed of the drum in the VTR according to Takahashi's invention is 1/2 of that of the standard VTR.

Although Takahashi's apparatus also reduces the rotational speed of the head cylinder, it achieves this using a different means (e.g., changing the number of head cylinders) than the one described in the application and claim 1. Accordingly, Takahashi fails to describe or suggest a magnetic recorder/reproducer including, among other features, recording means that sets a rotational speed of a head cylinder so that each signal section may be subdivided into such a number of deletion tracks that is obtained by dividing a predetermined number of tracks for each signal section by an integer smaller than said number of tracks, as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Takada does not appear to remedy the shortcomings of Takahashi. In particular, Takada is not relied upon by the Office Action to show a feature of reducing the rotation of head

cylinder. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 along with its dependent claims.

Dependent Claims

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims dependent thereon are also allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims are allowable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

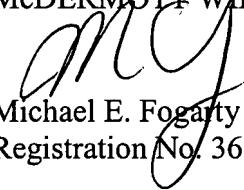
Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Michael E. Fogarty
Registration No. 36,139

**Please recognize our Customer No. 53080
as our correspondence address.**

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF:llg
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
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